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What the Latin Names Mean—I.

In a late number of the JOURNAL, the suggestion was made that amateur members of the Society might be interested in getting the meanings and application of the Latin specific names of ferns. In accordance with this suggestion, the following list of specific and varietal names now in use for our northeastern ferns, with their interpretations, has been prepared. If there is sufficient indication that it meets a long-felt want, the editors will endeavor to provide similar lists for the fern allies and for other sections of the country.

Unmistakable geographical names, like *virginica* and *americana*, have been omitted. It is to be understood that all such expressions as "of cliffs," "of woods" and the like, refer to the kind of place in which the plant in question grows, or was supposed to grow by the author who gave it its name. "Lat." stands, of course, for Latin; "Gr." for Greek.

C. A. W.

acrostichoides—Gr., like *Acrostichum*, a genus of tropical ferns in which the sporangia are not gathered into separate sori, but cover the whole under surface of the fertile fronds or segments.

alpina—Lat., alpine.

anadenium—Gr., glandless.

angusta—Lat., narrow.

angustifolium—Lat., narrow-leaved.

angustisegmentum—Lat., with narrow divisions; referring to the sterile frond.

aquilinum—Lat., of an eagle; referring to the pattern, like a heraldic eagle, formed by the vascular bundles when the stem of the bracken is cut across near the base—a detail noted as long ago as 1550.

areolata—Lat., with small spaces or meshes; referring to the pattern formed by the veins.

atropurpurea—Lat., dark purple; referring to the color of the stipe.

attenuatum—Lat., gradually narrowed; referring to the shape of the segments.

auritum—Lat., eared; referring to the projecting lobes at the base of the pinnae which suggest in shape the ears of an animal.

- Boottii*—named for William Boott, 1805–1887, a well known New England botanist who collected the type specimens.
- Boschianum*—for Roelof Benjamin van den Bosch, 1810–1862, a writer on the filmy ferns.
- Bradleyi*—for Professor F. H. Bradley, who sent to D. C. Eaton the specimens from which the species was described.
- Braunii*—for Alexander Braun, 1809–1877, professor at the University of Berlin and a student especially of cryptogamic plants.
- bulbifera*—Lat., bulb-bearing; referring to the well-known habit of one of the bladder ferns.
- cambricum*—Lat., of Wales (of which Cambria was the ancient name), this form having apparently been first observed in that country.
- Capillus-Veneris*—Lat., Venus' hair; probably a translation of an ancient name for the plant.
- Cathcartiana*—for Miss Ellen Cathcart who collected the type specimens.
- celsum*—Lat. high, lofty, elevated; perhaps because this fern was first found growing on mossy stumps and logs, or possibly referring to the tall fronds.
- cinnamomea*—Lat. cinnamon-colored; referring to the sporangia.
- Claytoniana*—for Dr. John Clayton, 1685 (?)–1773, one of the earliest of American botanists.
- Clintoniana*—for G. W. Clinton, 1807–1885, an amateur botanist of Buffalo, N. Y.
- compositum*—Lat. compound; referring to the more numerous divisions of the sterile frond.
- concordiana*—from Concord, Mass., where the plant was first found.
- cristatum*—Lat. crested. Usually employed for forms in which the fronds or pinnae branch repeatedly near the apex, thus forming a tassel-like cluster at the end.
- dealbata*—Lat. whitened; referring to the white covering of the under surface of the frond.
- densa*—Lat. crowded together; referring to its habit of growth or to the crowded segments.
- dilatata*—Lat. expanded; referring to the large size of the lowest pinnae.
- dissectum*—Lat. cut into many segments.
- Dryopteris*—Gr. oak or tree in general, and fern; perhaps referring to the woodland habitat of the plant.
- dubia*—Lat. doubtful—an epithet which should need no explanation to anyone who remembers his first attempt to name a plant.
- ebenoides*—Gr. resembling *Asplenium ebeneum*.

elongatum—Lat. lengthened.

Engelmanni—for Dr. George Engelmann of St. Louis, 1809–1884, author of studies of American oaks, rushes, cacti, etc.

Féei—for Antoine Laurent Apollinaire Fée of Strasburg, 1789–1874, a noted writer on ferns.

Filix-femina—Lat. female or lady fern; probably a translation of the popular name.

Filix-mas—Lat. male fern; probably like the preceding, a translation of the popular name.

fragans—Lat. sweet-smelling, the fronds of the fern concerned being fragrant.

fragilis—Lat. easily broken, brittle.

frondosa—Lat. leafy; referring to the green sterile segments which appear among the fertile ones in this form.

The Society for the Prevention of the Wild.

BY C. E. WATERS.

Years ago when a branch of the Wild Flower Preservation Society was established in Baltimore, one facetious feminine member nicknamed it the Society for the Prevention of the Wild. Everyone of us who has botanized or pursued any other branch of natural history in a particular locality for more than two or three years will begin to think that such a society exists there. Perhaps the writer of this jeremiad is unduly pessimistic, for he began to feel this way in the early days of the Fern Chapter and long ago expressed in print an unfavorable opinion of modern improvements which are responsible for the destruction of the wild places.

My acquaintance with the botany of the Baltimore region began late in 1890. During the years since then there have been many changes brought about in one way or another. To consider only the plants in which this Society is interested, there have been some losses, possibly irreparable. To own up at the start, before telling what others have done, my first and only plant of *Asplenium ebenoides* was enthusiastically grabbed up